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BOOK REVIEWS

International Law. By T. Baty, D.C.L., LL.D. New York, Longmans, Green & Co. London, John Murray. 1909.

This is not a treatise or text-book upon International Law but a collection of essays with an object, and very good reading they are. That object is to point out the necessity for a readjustment in nineteenth century conceptions of the law of nations, and to help the process along. Owing to the free mingling of peoples, says the author ("penetration" is his word for it), the independence of states has given place to an interdependence which raises altogether different problems. Theoretically, a State may condition or forbid such an influx; practically it must permit it. But on what conditions? Alien residents certainly have no rights superior to those of subjects—that would grant them an *imperium in imperio*; nor on an equality with those of subjects, for they may be specially taxed and their residence restricted. Equality of security or protection is what they are entitled to. But this is vague and unspecific. Accordingly, commercial treaties have come into vogue to lay down exactly the alien's rights of residence and trade. Hence results a legalized "pacific penetration."

Now Feudalism was replaced by the idea of territorial independence. But is such a solution of world politics satisfactory and permanent? The author does not think so. Because of this mingling of peoples, territorial independence is already yielding to "stratification," *i. e.*, class interests (like social democracy) which run outside of territorial limits. To protect independence from the inroads upon it at the hands of modern complexities, local solidarity is needed under a system of Federation. This is the only alternative to a warfare of classes, and the author defends the Federation principle from the charges of weakness, of being judge ridden, of being over conservative.

There is incidentally much else in the book: an attempt to define genuine international arbitration; opposition to peaceful violence applied by one state to another—like pacific blockade—as in derogation of that territorial independence upon which political stability rests; dread of cosmopolitanism replacing nationality; all fully exemplified. It is a thoughtful book, not hanging together and making its points as progressively and clearly as

might be, somewhat over illustrated but in a way breaking fresh ground.

T. S. W.

Handbook of Mexican Law. By Robert Joseph Kerr. The Pan-American Law Book Company, New York. pp. 260. 1909.

This is the first edition of a work which appeared during the past year. The purpose of the book is to furnish a compact and practical work, in the form of a handbook, on Mexican Law, for the use of attorneys and of value to investors of all kinds in that growing country.

The work is not a mere book of forms and platitudes stated as law, as handbooks so generally prove to be. A wide range of legal propositions will be found taken care of in concise form and concrete language. The special laws of Mexico in reference to bond issues is put before the reader in an intelligent way in Part VI of the work.

One of the most important parts of the volume is the introduction, with an historical outline of Mexican law. This short review enables the attorney to hold a viewpoint of Mexico quite different from that which he had previously held.

The main aim and object of the book is to show what the Mexican law is in general and where it may be found. The work is arranged in ten parts. The arrangement in Chapters, Titles and Books is the same as in the Civil Code of the Federal District and the Commercial Code itself, and the headings as subjects of the several Books, Titles and Chapters are translated exactly.

Part IV is devoted to the Mining law of Mexico; the method of acquiring mining concessions is adequately treated. Such subjects as mortgages, corporations, surety contracts, easements, deposits, powers of attorney and commercial contracts are fully treated. When it is remembered that the Notarial Law of Mexico has never been translated into English, the necessity is readily seen "for some book that will first of all give a general idea of the Mexican law, and second, indicate where it may be found."

The author in his preface states that he has attempted to meet the requirements which were adopted in the first instance, namely: fidelity in translation, brevity in presentation, and breadth in